

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as Express Mail, Airbill No. ER 038495399 US, in an envelope addressed to: MS Patent Application, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date shown below.

Dated: December 12, 2003

Signature:  (Linda J. Burleigh)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

HALE et al.

Serial No.: Not Yet Assigned

Filing Date: Not Yet Assigned

For: INTERFACE FOR A VARIABLE  
DIRECTION-OF-VIEW ENDOSCOPE

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 & 1.98

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98, Applicants submit for consideration in the above-identified application the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the documents were previously submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement and/or Office Action, directed to the related application Serial Number 10/020,374, filed December 14, 2001, and, accordingly, copies are not included herewith. This protocol conforms with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(d) and M.P.E.P. 609(A)(2). The Examiner is requested to make these documents of record in the application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- ☒ With the application; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☐ Before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a Request for Continued Examination under § 1.114.
- ☐ Within three months of the application filing date or before mailing of a first Office Action on the merits; accordingly, no fee or separate requirements are required.
- ☐ After receipt of a first Office Action on the merits but before mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance.
  - ☐ A fee is required. A check in the amount of \_\_\_ is enclosed.
  - ☐ A fee is required. Accordingly, a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17) is attached to this submission in duplicate.
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided below; accordingly; no fee is believed to be due.
- ☐ After mailing of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the issue fee.
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided below and a check in the amount of \_\_\_ is enclosed.
  - ☐ A Certification under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) is provided below and a Fee Transmittal form (PTO/SB/17 is attached to this submission in duplicate.)

I hereby certify that no item of information was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the best of my knowledge after making a reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Applicants would appreciate the Examiner initialing and returning the Form PTO-1449, indicating that the information has been considered and made of record herein.

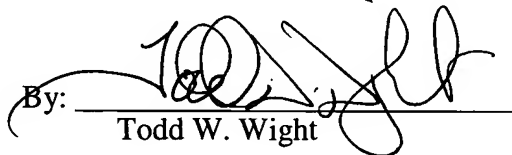
The information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97 and § 1.98 is not to be construed as a representation that: (i) a complete search

has been made; (ii) additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist; (iii) the information, protocols, results and the like reported by third parties are accurate or enabling; or (iv) the above information constitutes prior art to the subject invention.

In the unlikely event that the transmittal form is separated from this document and the Patent Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorize the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to **Deposit Account No. 03-1952** referencing (507992000220). However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

Dated: December 12, 2003

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Todd W. Wight

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<b>Form PTO-1449</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION IN AN APPLICATION</b>  <i>(Use several sheets if necessary)</i>	Docket Number 507992000220	Application Number Not Yet Assigned
	Applicant  HALE et al.	
	Filing Date Not Yet Assigned	Group Art Unit Not Yet Assigned
	Mailing Date December 12, 2003	

### U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date If Appropriate
	1.	5/17/94	5,313,306	Kuban			
	2.	6/4/96	5,524,180	Wang			
	3.	5/25/99	5,907,664	Wang			
	4.	9/21/99	5,954,634	Igarashi			
	5.	8/1/00	6,097,423	Mattsson-Boze			

### FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Date	Document No.	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation YES NO

### OTHER DOCUMENTS

*(including author, title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)*

Examiner Initials	Ref. No.	Title

EXAMINER:

DATE CONSIDERED:

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not the citation conforms with MPEP 609. Draw a line through the citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include a copy of this form with next communication to applicant.